

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

GANG OF 1 IN SILLY SEASON

TRIP

August is traditionally the silly season for news when papers are filled with trivialities and mere excuses for stories. It seemed appropriate therefore that Hackney People's Press should make its first contact with Hackney's Social Democrats, at a public meeting held in St John's Church Hall.

The meeting had a curious formal feel to it. The majority of people present were male, over 35 and white. Most of them were dressed respectably in suits. The chairman (no chairpersons here) had to explain that he was in charge of the meeting because they had agreed to rotate the chair, a concept that sounded foreign to him. He introduced the remainder of the platform party, including a smartly-suited middle-aged man who was "the link with Head Office in Queen Anne's Gate". His precise role was never explained.

The main item on the agenda was the role of the SDP in next year's council elections. But before that came up, there was a summary of the exciting event of the week



Man of the people Councillor Denis Trim in his earlier life - a Marxist in theory but not in practice.

before: the defection of self-styled "Marxist" Councillor Denis Trim from the Labour Party. Hackney's Gang of One had fled the country to Iceland (on holiday) as soon as his resignation from the Labour party had been announced and so the hero's welcome was not exactly forthcoming. There also seemed to be a certain amount of confusion about whether he could be accepted into the SDP if he was a Marxist. This was explained by the secretary who had talked to Denis, and had been told that he was a Marxist in theory but not in practice. Whatever that might mean. Thus it was agreed that if he accepted the 12 principles of the SDP he could join, if he wanted to.

Then came the unveiling of the master plan to sweep to power in the 1982 council elections. We were told by the election supremo, a certain Denis Murray, that they had to decide quickly on the list of candidates that were going to fight because the manifestos for the May elections had to be printed in January. That would be interesting news to many other political parties - who would expect to be able to get their manifestos printed in a couple of weeks or so. He also told members that they should think very carefully about whether they wanted to stand because they might be elected. Everyone who stood, it seemed, ran this awful risk.

And it was hard work being a councillor.

There was a certain amount of ranting from the few Liberals present who seemed a little unhappy that Hackney was being carved up without their co-operation. The wild radicals from Hackney South (radical in Liberal terms, at least) were not represented, so all the speaking was done by regular bottom-of-the-poll expert Maurice Owen.

POLICY

The only sour note that was struck was right at the end of the meeting when someone asked, "I am interested in joining the SDP: where can I find out more about what it stands for?" He was told in no uncertain terms that he should go and read the leaflet with the 12 principles on it - and if this wasn't sufficient he could try either Shirley Williams' or David Owen's books. Nowhere, it seemed, was there any other statement of policy or beliefs.

And that was that. This brief intrusion of someone wanting to talk about politics at a meeting where a new political party was being formed seemed completely out of place. People were being expected to know already everything about the policies that was necessary, to come along and learn how to take over power. The dangerous thing is, they might just manage it.



Johnson's Cafe after the uprising.

Uprising aftermath

Over 100 people were arrested after the uprising in July when youth took to the streets and clashed with the police. Many of them have now appeared in court, and some very severe sentences have been imposed by the magistrates.

The Hackney Legal Defence Committee (HLDC) has been set up to assist those arrested during the uprising. Below we summarise what they are trying to do. First, we print an account of some reactions in the month following the uprising.

Along Kingsland and Stoke Newington High Streets, local traders were still repairing damage done to shops. I called in at Johnson's cafe in Sandringham Road and asked about the baton charges and damage done to the West Indian cafe. I was told: "All the glass wall and glass door at the front of the shop was kicked in, kicked in by the police - bash! and smash!" Not doubting the fact that the police had lashed out wildly, zooming with their batons and cracking scalps, I said: "What's your opinion of the riots that took place between the black youths and the police in the Dalston area in July?"

The woman in the cafe said: "Police came into the cafe using truncheons, slashing them in...a them head, using all their strength in murderous attacks on defenceless people. They was not concern about the frighten state of the people's mind."

I asked if there had been anything missing or stolen. She exclaimed: "No. Blood! Blood! Spilled by police tactics. They batter them, batter them in a tha head."

Then I interviewed two administrative officers at the Town Hall, Mare Street. They suggested that the local authorities hadn't any direct links with the action and movement of the local police force. They are only concerned in the parking sector and com-

munity work, and have a liaison committee with the police.

Nonetheless, I thought these

Continued on p.2.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE HACKNEY LEGAL DEFENCE COMMITTEE

If you are one of the arrested and require legal or financial assistance, or if you are a witness to any arrest or have any information which would help us in the legal defence of those charged, or if you received any injuries (or witnessed anyone receiving injuries) or have photographic evidence which would assist in our work, please contact us immediately at the address below.

We need financial contributions to pay for legal costs and fines, to ensure the best possible defence.

HLDC also needs your active participation in visiting courts and collecting information from those charged, those who witnessed incidents, those who were beaten up, etc.

If you want to contribute to the work of HLDC or require any further information, contact us at: The Co-ordinator, Hackney Legal Defence Committee (HLDC), c/o 247 Mare Street, E8; tel 986 4121.

HLDC meets every Friday evening. Contact the above for further details.

KEEP POLITICS OUT OF POLITICS!
Join the SDP

Available as a postcard from Leeds Postcards, 13 Claremont Grove, Leeds LS3 1AX.

SNIFFING THE WIND

We political commentators have a hard life. Just as I'd started a few days sniffing coke and ozone and working on my topless sun tan on a little beach outside Juan Les Pins, I was summonsed back to reality by an urgent message. The Hackney Labour Party wanted to see me! How could I refuse? So, tossing aside my unread copy of that morning's *Le Monde*, I made the assignment in a little beach cafe over a glass or two of an amusing little chilled Montrachet.

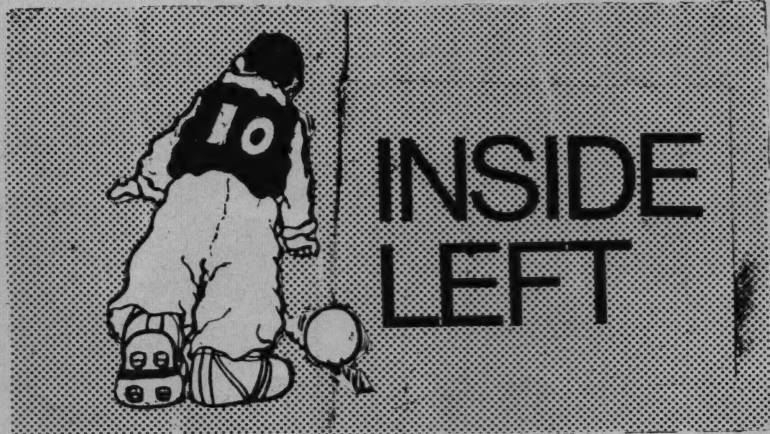
Reasons of borough security would not allow my companion to reveal himself. He looked a little on the warm side, muffled up to the eyeballs in a thick overcoat, a long woollen scarf wound round his face and a wide-brimmed hat pulled down over his eyes. I was quick to assure him that what he was wearing was de rigueur amongst the jet set, and that soon everyone else would be dressed the same.

"Do you think I've been followed?" he whispered hoarsely.

"My dear fellow, of course not."

"I've been sent to you as an emissary of Councillor —" He named a name which had struck terror into many a faint heart before. I have left secret instructions with the manager of my Swiss bank that the name should be revealed in the event of my sudden disappearance or death. But for the present I shall adopt the codeword that the conspirator and I used during the meeting: Uncle Joe.

"Uncle Joe is very worried



about what you wrote in the last issue of Hackney People's press," he said. "He wants to make an offer."

"What kind of offer?" I asked, my heart sinking. "You haven't come to spoil my holiday to tell me that I have got to run for the council and be nominated for the vice-chairmanship of the twinning committee, have you?"

"Oh no, nothing like that." He seemed vastly amused by this. Could this be the post he was himself after? I asked myself. There seemed something familiar in what I could see of his eyes behind his dark glasses. Was it...but he carried on:

"Uncle Joe thinks that you've got it all wrong." That won't be the first time, I thought. But what he said next made me sit up instantly. My brain raced into overtime, my fingers started twitching for the

typewriter, my computer-like mind started reeling back through half-forgotten political facts.

"You've got it all wrong about the Social Democratic Party." Argh, I thought. Our worst dreams are coming true. There's going to be a mass defection. Hackney is to follow the Trim route, from East German sympathiser to the SDP in one brief jump.

"The reason why they are going to win seats in the next Council elections is because they've got no policies. They go around being nice to people and kissing their babies and saying that there must be a better way. And then they say that there must be a new approach, and that people must be involved in planning this. And that's what we are going to do in the Labour Party. We're going to abandon all our plans to have a full-length manifesto with detailed plans for the next four years. We saw what happened with the last one. The Tories got in, and made it virtually impossible for us to do anything, because we couldn't get the money. So what we plan to do for the next council elections is to issue a list of 12 priorities for Labour supporters and get on with things after that in our usual muddled fashion."

"You mean that there won't be any more manifestos that never reach the public?" I asked, trembling. "What kind of things will be on this list of priorities?"

"Oh, the usual guff about creating a fairer, more just society free from prejudice against race, sex and creed."

"What about socialism?" I said. "What about the class

struggle? Where's the correct political analysis?"

"We're abandoning all that. We want to hang on to power at all costs."

"But you could take the opposite view," I said. "You could issue a bold and detailed manifesto, imaginatively presented, that actually argued the case for socialism and for a democratically elected genuine socialist council, that would give the people of Hackney a chance to show that they really want the chance of getting radical changes."

"Oh, we couldn't do that. The people wouldn't stand for it. We've got to water it down, hide behind the Labour cloak, pretend that we are just managers, and that we can't put ourselves on the line. Anyway, I'm afraid that I have to go now. The next train for Dalston Junction goes in about three days time, and I've got to hitch back to Broad Street."

"But say stranger, won't you even tell me your name...?" Too late, he was gone. The only clue I was left with was his unpaid bill, and a few smoked-down-to-the-stub butt ends.

Then I woke up. I had been lying under a tree in Victoria Park, near where William Morris used to speak. My fantasies of jet-set life were just that. My visions of a radical future for Hackney were even more unreal. I had fallen for the oldest trick in the journalistic book. Writing about a dream and pretending that I was telling you a true story. And if you've got this far, you've fallen for it too.

But, I thought to myself, William Morris was a dreamer, and a socialist.

He once wrote: "Intelligence enough to conceive, courage enough to will, power enough to compel. If our ideas of a new Society are anything more than a dream, these three qualities must animate the... working people; and then, I say, the thing will be done." And so it could.

After-math

Continued from p.1.

questions were vital. At the time of the Civil Service dispute, the Town Hall was relied upon to share the work to help the unemployed. So I continued to ask their opinion on the riots and terrorism people suffered by the serious violence inflicted by the troops of armed police leaping from their vans, causing breach of the peace with unnecessary provocation.

One said: "The government, in general terms, is giving the local authorities less and less money, therefore their plans for central facilities on programmes for work become fewer." He added: "The riots in Hackney are minor compared with, say, Manchester or elsewhere."

"The disturbances should not cause great alarm, with the number of people who were involved. The local authorities are presently having committee meetings regarding additional educational courses. Benefits may be gained from self-organisation."

I approached Stoke Newington Police Station enquiring about the clashes and police tactics, and asked to talk to the local home beat officer informally. I was told to write to the superintendent of police. *Hercules*

Marshes hope to win

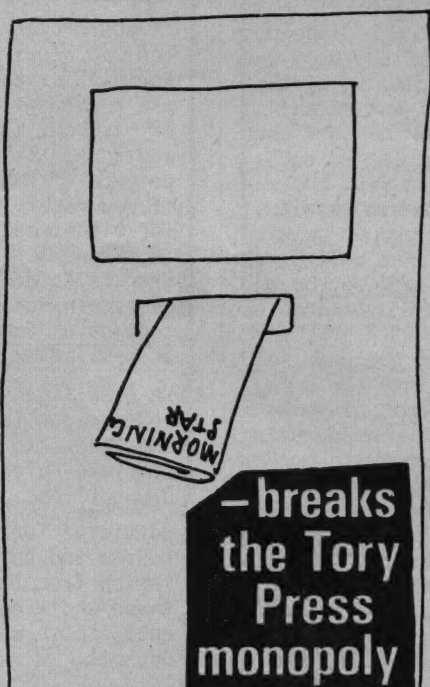
The long battle to save Walthamstow Marshes may be won this month. For two years campaigners have fought against plans by the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, which owns the marshes, to excavate for minerals. The final decision will be made at a meeting of the authority on 17 September, and the Save the Marshes campaign are confident that the support of newly elected GLC members will tip the balance in their favour.

The Marshes campaign received a further boost also with the decision a few weeks ago of the Nature Conservancy Council to declare the marshes a site of "special scientific interest". This has meant that there is further pressure on the Lea Valley Authority to abandon its plans.

The campaign has just produced a map of Walthamstow marshes, pointing out the wildlife and plantlife that can be found there. This is being sold to raise funds for the campaign, which will still continue, even if the Lea Valley Authority lifts the immediate threat. "We want to see the marshes turned into a wildlife sanctuary, properly cared for and accessible to local people," a spokesperson told HPP.

The map can be obtained for £1 from the Save the Marshes Campaign, 93 Mayola Road, E5.

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HOME SWEET HOME

Since March 1980 the Hackney Law Centre has been doing specialist casework in Immigration and Nationality. The Citizens Advice Bureaux have for a long time been giving advice in this area, and have made it a priority area in view of the importance to people of their rights in this field.

Since the publication of the government's White Paper on Nationality and the Bill that followed, with the consequent public discussions, demand and concern for getting accurate advice in this area has greatly increased. The Bill is now in its final parliamentary stages and will become law in the autumn.

Many people are worried about how the new law will affect their rights. Some have already decided to apply for UK and Colonies citizenship now. They need advice and help in putting in applications and following them up. Others such as those from remaining dependencies can do little about their position, but need to know how the complex arrangements for alteration of their citizenship will work. There is a great deal of fear and misinformation current, some of it quite unnecessarily upsetting to people. It is of course understandable that people fear the worst in a time of racist and restrictive immigration control and continued racial attacks and discrimination. There are also many people who are unaware of the changes and threats to their rights in the nationality field, often because they

Ernie Greenwood



BUT HAVE YOU GOT A VALID PASSPORT?

think that they are still citizens of the UK and Colonies, although this status was lost when their country gained independence. Because they have an old British passport at home, people wrongly assume that they are still British. People also need to know that all children born after the law changes will only be British citizens if they have at least one British citizen parent or one parent settled here, and

proof of this may be needed, especially by people from ethnic minorities.

In May 1981 the Law Centre, after consultation with community groups concerned about the issue, and encouraged by a meeting convened by Hackney Council for Racial Equality in November attended by people from local groups and councillors, wrote to about 150 community groups, most of whom are on the HCRE mailing list. We explained that we wanted

to help people find out where they stand, and in particular to help persons whose present absolute right to registration would be removed in five years after the new law. These are Commonwealth citizens over 18, settled here since before 1 January 1973, and wives, ex-wives and widows of citizens of the UK and colonies. We announced a set of training sessions for people from community groups who wished to learn how to

help others decide where they stand and complete citizenship application forms.

These training sessions took place in June and July. The sessions were attended by youth workers, social workers, ministers, councillors, a probation officer and individuals who wanted to find out about their own rights. As well as covering the major issues, and showing how the application forms should be completed, the sessions enabled us to tell people about the plan for a publicity campaign followed by a month of action in Hackney, in which we hoped community groups would participate by arranging sessions at their premises. The groups would distribute the information we printed, and people who had been to the sessions or knew about the issues would be able to spread awareness locally to the people we are trying to reach. The Law Centre would service the sessions with a pool of people who are competent and experienced in the nationality field.

We propose that October 1981 should be the "month of action". Posters and leaflets in English, various Asian languages and Greek and Turkish are now being produced.

The group organising the month of action is now called Hackney Action on Immigration and Nationality. There will be a public meeting to prepare for the month on Wednesday 16 September at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Assembly Room, Mare Street.

Louise London,
Hackney Law Centre

ADVERTISEMENT

Campaign for Women's Centre

Apart from the Essex Road Women's Centre in Islington which closed down several years ago, there has never been a feminist women's centre in or near Hackney - despite the number of individual feminists living in the borough, and of the diversity of groups, from small consciousness-raising groups to campaign groups such as the hospital closures, Depo Provera, National Abortion Campaign and trades union groups, through to the socialist feminist group and women's housing co-ops.

GROUP FORMED

It's only now that a group of women have got together to work on getting a women's centre going. Though the first meeting was called by some sisters from the socialist feminist group, the women's centre group now involves a wide range of political opinions and experience.

A large part of our work so far has consisted in contacting other women's groups in the borough, to get support in terms of womanpower, money, etc, and most of all

to get involvement and feedback as to what sort of women's centre we want. The more women are involved from the onset, the wider the appeal of the centre will be.

AIMS AND NEED

The first meeting, at the beginning of June, was held at the Trades Club, and attracted over 35 women. Since then we have had four other meetings, with subgroups working on possible sources of funding, finding premises around Dalston Junction, contacting other women's groups, and organising benefits. We have had discussions around the aims of a Hackney Women's Centre, how it should be run, by whom, how we reconcile the needs and aspirations of different groups of women, how we ensure that it is not solely used by "movement" and/or middle class white women.

Obviously these are so much hot air unless we find premises and money. We will shortly be asking for money from bankers' orders from women and men (put your money where your mouth is!) and any donations now would be very welcome.

So far, the consensus seems to be that the women's centre should be as open as possible - that a basic priority is to provide some sort of childcare, and that we should have a tea/coffee room where women can come in for support or a chat or information or a nap... without being harassed by men. The building should be large enough to house women's social events. Women involved in the group have suggested maintenance/skill-sharing sessions, sports activities, etc. Anyone got any ideas for a suitable Cheap/no rent building?

ACTIVITIES

A series of activities has been planned for the autumn:

Sept 12, at the Family Centre, Rectory Rd, N16 at 2pm: a meeting which we hope as many women from as many groups as possible will attend, so we can share ideas and information.

We will also be having a jumble sale and benefit in September.

The Hackney Women's Centre group can be contacted by writing to Box 41, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

Running a voluntary organisation needs a little application

Hackney Council is now inviting applications from voluntary and community organisations for funding through the Inner City Partnership, for the year beginning April 1982.

If your organisation wishes to be considered, apply for further details and an application form from the Programme Planning Office, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney, E8 1EA. Tel. 986 3123 exts. 339 or 293.

Applications should be returned as soon as possible and no later than September 18.



Hackney Adult Education Institute

Programme of Classes 1981-1982



Hackney Adult Education Institute is a new adult education institute for the people of the borough. It is a result of the amalgamation of parts of the old Highbury Manor, Bethnal Green and Clapton Institutes. There are 12 main branches offering a wide range of classes and activities, and in addition there are classes in about 80 local centres throughout the borough.

BRANCHES

7 HEADQUARTERS: Hackney Adult Education Institute, Chelmer Road, E9.	533-2426
1 Woodberry Down School, Woodberry Grove, N.4.	802-5555
2 Clissold Park School, Clissold Road, N.16.	249-1496
3 William Patten School, Church Street, Stoke Newington, N.16.	254-1837
4 Brooke House School, Kenninghall Road, E.5.	985-9646
5 Dalston Mount School, Shacklevell Lane, E.8.	245-4034
6 Clapton School, Linscott Road, E.5.	985-4392
7 HEADQUARTERS: Hackney Adult Education Institute, Chelmer Road, E.9.	533-2426

8 Upton House School, Homerton Row, E.9.	985-1135
9 De Beauvoir School, Tottenham Road, N.1.	254-3668
10 Wilton Way Annexe of Hackney Free & Parochial School, Wilton Way, E.8.	254-6974
11 Shoreditch School, Falkirk Street, E.2.	739-4834
12 Haggerston School, Weymouth Terrace, E.2.	739-7226
13 Chatham Place Gymnasium, Morningside School Chatham Place, E.9.	

FEES

Standard Charges	Per Year	Autumn & Spring Term	Summer Term
For 1 one-hour class per week	£ 7.50	£3.00	£1.50
For 1 two-hour class per week	£15.00	£6.00	£3.00

Short Courses: 25p per hour subject to a maximum of £6 per course

Reduction of Fees

There is an automatic reduction of fees for students who are:

1. National Insurance Retirement Pensioners — £1 per year
2. Persons in receipt of Family Incomes Supplement, Supplementary Benefit and Unemployment Benefit — £1 per year
3. Young people under 18 years of age — £1.50 per year

ENROLMENT WEEK

MONDAY 14 September 1981 to THURSDAY 17 September 1981

Branches are open for enrolment on the following days and times during this week:

1. Woodberry Down	6.30-9.30pm	Monday-Thursday
2. Clissold Park	6.30-9.30pm	Monday-Thursday
3. William Patten	6.30-9.30pm	Monday-Thursday
4. Brooke House	1.00-3.00 & 6.30-9.30pm	Monday-Thursday
5. Dalston Mount	6.30-9.30pm	Tuesday & Thursday only
6. Clapton	1.00-3.00pm	Monday-Thursday
7. Chelmer Road	1.00-3.00pm	Monday-Thursday
8. Upton House	6.30-9.30pm	Monday-Thursday
9. De Beauvoir	6.30-9.30pm	Monday-Thursday
10. Wilton Way	6.30-9.30pm	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday only
11. Shoreditch	2.30-8.30pm	Monday-Thursday
12. Haggerston	6.30-9.30pm	Friday

Subject	Branch No.				
ABC of Motoring	11.	Fitness Training	4.	Parents Groups	See Page 39
Angling (Coarse)	5.	Football Training	2. 5. 8. 11. 12.	Pensioners Luncheon Club	13.
Arabic	8.	Flower Arrangement	9. 11.	Pensioners Social	13.
Art	2. 4. 7. 10. 11. 12.	French	1. 8. 10. 11.	Photography	1. 5. 9.
Badminton	2. 4. 5. 6. 8. 10. 11.	Fresh Start numeracy/literacy	4. 7.	Piano Playing	1. 5. 8.
Beauty Care	1.	Gardening	11.	Picture Framing, Mount Cutting & Gilding	1. 7.
Beer & Wine Making	9.	German	8. 10.	Politics of Pressure Groups	8.
Bengali	See P. 40 Main Prospectus	Get Fit (Men)	4.	Pottery	1. 2. 5. 10. 13.
Braille	8.	Golf	4. 11.	Pre-School Playgroup Leaders Course	7.
Bridge	1. 4.	Greek Dancing	See P. 39 Main Prospectus	Punjabi	See Page 40
Calligraphy	1. 4.	Groupwork (PRS)	8.	Puppetry	8.
Canoeing	4.	Guitar: Classical Folk	1. 4. 8. 9. 10.	Radio (Amateur)	9.
Car Maintenance	1. 2. 9. 10. 11.	Gujarati	8. 11.	Radio Electronics	9.
Childminders drop-in group	5. 7.	Hackney Orchestra	4.	Radio & TV Maintenance	4.
Choral Group	8.	Hebrew (Modern)	8.	Rowing fitness training	4.
Christmas Decorations	6. 8. 11. 12.	Introduction to Computers	8.	Sailing	4.
City Farming	8.	Italian	8. 11.	Sculpture & Clay Modelling	7.
Confectionery/Patisserie	9.	Jewellery & Silversmithing	4. 7. 8.	Silk Screen Printing	14.
Cookery	1. 3. 5. 9. 10. 11.	Judo	4. 8. 11.	Soft Furnishing	3. 6. 7.
Co-operatives: what are they?	4.	Karate	8. 12.	Soft Tailoring	6.
Crafts	4. 7. 12. 13.	Keep Fit (Women)	1. 3. 4. 5. 6. 8. 9. 10. 11. 13.	Spanish	1. 8. 11.
Dance:		Knitting, Crochet & Macrame	2. 7. 14. and P. 39	Steel Band	8.
Contemporary Jazz Dance	1. 2. 8. 10. 13.	Ladies Luncheon Club	9.	Swimming	2. 4.
Exercises	See P. 39 Main Prospectus	Literacy	1. 2. 3. 4. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Swimming for Mothers & Toddlers	4.
Expressive	4.	Living in Retirement	7. 8. and P. 45	Table Tennis	1. 8.
Indian	See P. 39 Main Prospectus	London Past & Present	1. 8.	Tennis	5. 8. 12.
Dancing:		Machine Embroidery	3.	Turkish	See Page 40
Ballroom	3. 4. 5. 9. 11.	Machine Knitting	8.	Typing as a personal skill	5. 11.
Latin American	4. 5. 11.	Make do and mend	7. 10.	Upholstery (hard & soft)	7.
Modern Sequence	4. 5. 11. & P. 39	Making Children's Clothes	7.	Urdu	5.
Old Time	1. 3. 9. 13. & P. 39	Metalcraft & Machine Shop Practice	8.	Video Workshop	4.
Drama	1. 13.	Millinery	1.	Weaving & Spinning	14.
Dressmaking	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 9. 10. 11.	Model/Toymaking	4.	Weightlifting	3. 9. 15.
Electronic Hobbies	11. 12 & P. 39	Motor Cycle Maintenance	8. 10.	Woodwork and Polishing	4. 10. 11. 14.
Electricity in the Home	4. 11.	Music & Movement	See Page 39	Woodwork for Women	2.
English as a second language	2. 3. 4. 6. 7. 8. 9. 11.	Numeracy	3. 4. 7. 11.	Womens study group	2. 6.
Embroidery	1.	Over 50's Study Groups	1. 2. 13.	Working & living with the deaf	8.
Family groups	See P. 39 Main Prospectus	Painting & Drawing	11. 13.	Yoga	1. 4. 6. 8. 9. 10. 11. 14.
Film & TV Club	4.	Paper Conservation	4.		
First Aid	1. 2. 9.				
Fitness for the Over 40's	11.				



Late Bar Food
 floorspots welcome 9 to 10 p.m.

Hackney's New ALTERNATIVE Cabaret - Late on a Saturday Night

Upstairs at the Crown and Castle pub in Dalston Junction is a new cabaret venue. It happens every Saturday night and attracts vast crowds of entertainment-hungry Hackneyites who want to see a bit of life without having to fork out West End prices.

What with the bar being open till midnight, excellent food and a warm, friendly atmosphere, you would hardly think it needed any acts to complete the evening, but in the three months that it has been going the new venue has been able (on a shoestring budget) to present an array of local talent from every type of entertainment there is, from poetry to slapstick comedy. Previous performers have included the Pinkspots, Controlled Attack Theatre Group, the Joeys Theatre Group, Clapperclaw, Threadbare Theatre, the Formica Tops, The Chip Shop Show, Tony Allen and Jim Barclay, Bill Monks of Alternative Cabaret, Norma Cohen, Ken Gregory and local poets and writers including Fred Williams, Gladys McGee and Roger Mills.

The cabaret is run on a co-operative basis with a committee deciding on all the details of how the evenings should be organised. Meetings are held every Monday evening at 9pm in the room above the pub and anyone who would like

to help by any means is welcome to attend. Future plans for the venue include finding the room for a second night of the week (occasionally), starting with a benefit for the Hackney Association of Mental Patients. Posters advertising forthcoming shows are always on display in the pub and projected acts for September include jazz singer Maggie Nichols, the Scissor Sisters, plus the much-acclaimed Spare Tyre Theatre Company.

The cabaret starts every Saturday evening at 10pm; doors open at 9pm, and entertainment continues till 12.30. Entrance £1.50; unwaged £1.

What's On...

HPP's free listings page will be back to full strength next month. Please send items for October in by Friday 25 September.

The other way

Two-and-a-half years after Mrs Thatcher came to power, socialists have come to realise that alternatives have to be developed. The gruesome stuff of Thatcherism - taking your medicine, competition and so on - have to be countered by an opposite view, that socialism offers an alternative and a chance of building a decent society.

With this in mind, Hackney Workers' Educational Association has organised a series of talks this autumn entitled, optimistically, "Alternatives to Everything". Convenors Shiela Rowbotham and Betsy Brewer explain.

All those arguments about human nature being unchanging and the demands of the market and economic efficiency being fixed laws still have a conservative power. There is a real problem in how socialists counter them because we have lost the habit of arguing about these very basic differences and we do not have many clear ideas about how socialism would bring freedom, happiness equality and the rest.

We spend all our time defending things we know are often shoddy, bureaucratic



and even oppressive in some cases. How can we work out positive alternatives which release the creative capacity and imagination of people and make practical sense? We know we don't want more of the same, but what do we propose to put in the place of the existing shambles of economic policy, health service, education, childcare, etc?

The devastating severity of the attack on jobs and welfare combined with the growth of nuclear weapons, the existence of new technology has meant that socialists are beginning to talk about a society based on human, social needs. But this remains a rather hazy concept. What does it mean in terms of extending the ideas of political and industrial democracy into social life? Does it mean living together in different ways? Would this mean that our needs change? It is not always possible to decide what our needs are at different times. How do we deal with conflicting feelings about what we want? These conflicts can be between men and women within the working class, between ethnic groups, or indeed within ourselves - for we can have conflicting desires, after all.

The aim behind the course is to strengthen our confidence in alternative plans coming from the bottom up, not the top down, in grassroots or, more appropriately

for Hackney, ground-floor politics, while acknowledging the value of experts' knowledge when it is communicated democratically and inspired by a wide range of experience. The idea is to deepen our understanding of stock phrases like community control, workers' control, by looking in detail at the conflicts and difficulties involved in making alternatives as well as the achievements in community health, nurseries, workers' plans, redistribution of housework and childcare, therapy and whatever else you know about and want to discuss.

The programme of talks is as follows:

Wed 14 October: Introduction
 Thurs 22 October: Bob Rowthorn on the Alternative Economic Strategy.
 Wed 28 October: Jeanette Mitchell: "In and Against the State."
 Wed 4 November: Anna Coote and Jean Coussins: "The Family in the Firing Line."
 Wed 11 November: Les Doyal: "The Political Economy of Health."
 Wed 18 November: Mike Cooley: "Technology, Science and Work".
 Wed 25 November: Dave Davies: "Useful work versus useless toil."
 Wed 2 December: Tower Hamlets Trades Council Women's Group: "Women and Unemployment."
 Wed 9 December: Dave Elliot: "Alternative Energy Policy."
 Wed 16 December: "Politics of Food": discussion and eat-in.

All meetings will be held at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Other WEA courses

COMMUNITY CARE WORKSHOP

Run jointly by Hackney Workers' Educational Association and the Matthew O'Hara Committee, the Community Care Workshop explores questions of community care and civil liberties. It is a course for anyone interested in what sort of provision society should make for mental illness, the homeless and rootless, offenders, alcoholics, the mentally handicapped, etc. As well as the regular evening meetings (every other Wednesday, at 7 pm, from 23 Sept), day schools are held occasionally, such as the one on Saturday 19 Sept, on Why Send Them To Prison? This is about making certain offences non-imprisonable. Class members plan the course content and some bring their own papers or lead discussions. Issues raised by the meetings form

the basis for articles in Matthew O'Hara Committee News.

Sat 19 Sept: Day School from 10-5. "Why Send Them To Prison? Speakers from Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless, English Collective of Prostitutes, Campaign for Homosexual Equality, and others. £1 or what you can afford.

Wed 23 Sept: Introduction and history papers, including one on Scull's history of mental hospitals, Museums Of Madness.

Wed 7 Oct: "Twentieth Century Workhouse". Paddy Coulter (CHAR) on Camberwell Reception Centre.

Wed 21 Oct: Hackney's Psychiatric Units. A discussion forum.

Wed 4 Nov: Class papers and discussion, to include some papers on the history of prisons, workhouses and asylums.

Wed Nov 18: Facilities for Hackney's Mentally Handicapped. A discussion forum.

Wed Dec 2 and Wed Dec 16: as Nov 4.

All evening meetings are held at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8, from 7-9.30pm; 50p a meeting or what you can afford. Further information from Andrew Roberts, 177 Glenarm Road, E5; tel 986 5251.



FILM COURSE: From the New Deal to McCarthyism.

A look at politics in the American cinema from the 1930s to the 1950s with complete screenings of such films as Our Daily Bread, Of Mice and Men, On the Waterfront and Salt of the Earth. Plus extracts from other films. Tutor: Terry Butler. Starts Tuesday 27 October at 7pm in Dalston Mount School, Shacklewell Lane, E8. Eight fortnightly meetings.

WRITING WORKSHOP

A new daytime course for people who are interested in writing: poems, short stories, reminiscences and other scenes from life. Don't worry if you haven't written anything before. Will look at all kinds of writing techniques, and it is hoped that by the end of the course most of the writing will be by class members themselves. Child care facilities available if advance notice given.

Tutor: Ken Worpole. Starts Wednesday 7 October at 2pm in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Fees for all courses are £5 for a ten week course or £4 for a eight week course. 20p a session for pensioners, claimants, unwaged.

Full details about Hackney WEA from 76 Carylford Rd, N.16.

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Tel : 254 6677

SEPTEMBER

Weekly programme:

Mon 7 for six days: KRAMER VS KRAMER and JAZZ SINGER
 Mon 14 for six days: ALTERED STATES and SANDS OF TIME
 Mon 21 for six days: MY BRILLIANT CAREER and PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

Sunday matinees:

Sep 6 at 2.30: BABYLON and ROCKERS
 Sep 13 at 2 pm: NOSFERATU THE VAMPIRE and LA LUNA
 Sep 20 at 2 pm: LA FINANCEE DU PIRATE
 Sep 27 at 3.15: LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS

From Sep 7 the ticket price will increase to £1.80. Child ticket 90p; senior citizen 60p.

Staying Alive...

You may have noticed that last month's Hackney People's Press was smaller than usual and that tucked away on the front page was a little note to say sorry. This explained that the problem had been caused by "production difficulties".

What these production difficulties meant that there are simply not enough people in Hackney committed to supporting the idea of a community newspaper, and the burden of producing the paper each month has fallen on the shoulders of a mere handful of people.

This has meant that this small band of dedicated persons has had to search for stories, write them up, type

them out and paste up the pages for the printers. It has all been a strain, and we are afraid that it is beginning to tell.

Those of us who are committed to providing an alternative voice to the established press in Hackney want to know why there seems to be so little support. HPP is some eight

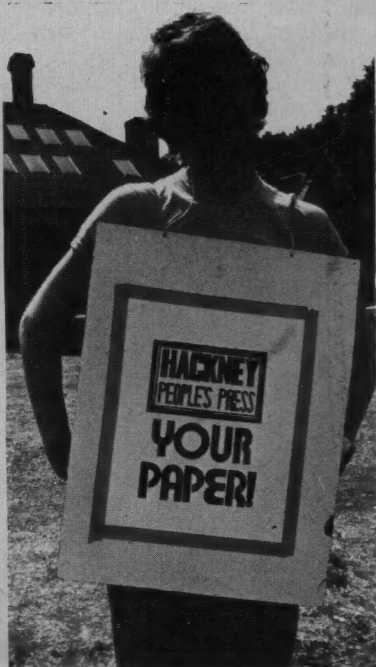
press should be flourishing. The government's hatchet work on jobs and social services has already knocked thousands of Hackney people on to the dole queue and below the poverty line. Yet the Tory-controlled press ignore all this in favour of smashing down left-wing politicians who are genuinely trying to improve living standards.

No doubt the Hackney Gazette will swing behind the "moderation" of the SDP and Liberals when it comes to the next round of council elections. Yet, as we show elsewhere in this month's paper, these pathetic groups have no policies and no strategy.

Now, more than ever, Hackney needs a radical paper. We want to produce a radical paper. But to do this we need much more support. We need you, our readers, to tell us what you want from HPP.

Do you feel that the paper doesn't offer a radical alternative? Or are our readers apathetic and feel that nothing can be done?

We are discussing amongst ourselves the future of the paper, and we will be holding an open meeting soon, which we hope will encourage you to contribute your thoughts on, even if you can't contribute anything in the way of time. But before then we want to know what you think we should do - before our commitment to providing community resource fades completely away. Write to us at 47a Grayling Road, N16 and tell us what you think.



Would you buy a newspaper from this man? HPP takes its message to the streets.

years old, and has been produced monthly for nearly four years now. Yet we still sell exactly the same number of copies that we did when we first went monthly. Something must be wrong.

Now seems to be exactly the time that the alternative

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HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS has regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm at our new office at 47a Grayling Road, N16. (Down access road beside no.47). If you would like to help write, produce or sell the next issue, then please come along. Or you can ring 806 9211 (evenings and weekends) or leave a message for us on 809 2889 (days).

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.80 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, N16.

Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Name.....

Address.....

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What we want for Hackney

What do you want for Hackney? This is the question Hackney people are being asked by Hackney Community Action - the federation of the borough's community groups.

Imagine a society free of racism, clean streets, decent housing, equality, jobs... imagine...what do you want?

On Sunday 4 October, an exciting event, "What We Want For Hackney", will be held. With films, dance, visual displays, discussions, people from all over Hackney will get together to work out common aims, share experiences, and learn from each other.

Already hundreds of local groups and people have been asked by Hackney Community Action to think what they want changed, to come up with new ideas, to develop old ones. And groups of representatives have been meeting to discuss housing, transport, children and young people, health, leisure, employment and more.

At the event on 4 October, to which everyone is welcome, there will be discussions on these issues - and women, the environment, democratic representation, ethnic minorities. Short papers are being pre-

pared to stimulate discussion...and subsequent action.

Following the conference, a community manifesto will be drawn up for consideration by the 100-plus organisations affiliated to Hackney Community Action. And published. This will be the first time such a manifesto appears. It could have a big impact on the new Council elected in 1982.

The event in October will run from 10-5pm with plenty of entertainment, films, tape/slide shows, discussions etc, as well as food and a creche. A bit more than the usual conference. It's taking place at Clissold Park School, so register now and get your further details.

If you want to participate in any of the groups that are meeting to consider the issues mentioned above, or to suggest another topic, contact Hackney Community Action, 380 Old Street, EC1; tel 729 5536.

Now is your chance to have a say and help make Hackney a better place to live in. Don't miss it!

Registration form for What Do We Want For Hackney? event. Sunday October 4, 10-5pm, Clissold Park School, N16.

Fill in and return to Hackney Community Action, 380 Old Street, London EC1.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Tel (if any).....

Organisation (if any).....

I am particularly interested in.....

.....

I will want to use the creche for.....children, aged.....

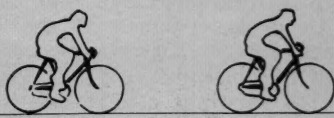
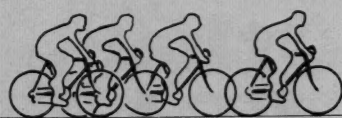
I enclose £1 registration fee (free to unwaged). (Make cheque/PO payable to Hackney Community Action.)

Note: Hackney People's Press will play a special role at the event/conference. They are publishing the discussion papers and programme and will be on the spot to report the doings, dealings and discussions of the community.



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at 18 Ashwin Street E8
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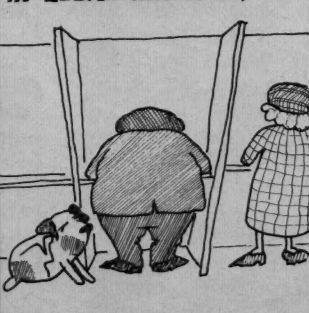
PETTY BUREAU

IT'S REFERENDUM DAY
AND PEOPLE ARE FLOCKING
TO THE TOWN HALL TO ANSWER
THREE QUESTIONS.

POLLING STATION



WOULD YOU RATHER
a) SEE DRASTIC CUTS
IN LOCAL SERVICES, OR



b) PAY MORE RATES?
AND...



c) DO YOU REALLY THINK
WE GIVE A TINKER'S



WHAT YOU SAY OR
THINK?

